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Item 2

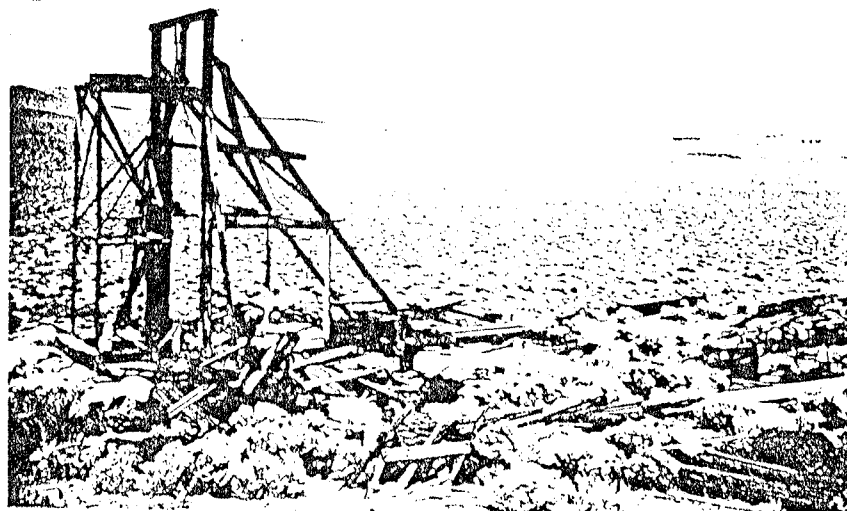
Location Number: NY 066

Location: Gold Crater
Coordinates: 37°32' / 116°53' T5S R45E
Elevation: 5520'
Map Sources: USGS Cactus Spring Quadrangle; Erickson County Map; Clason 1906
References: Carlson; Paher; Mordy; Ball; U.S. Navy; Site Investigation 9/3/77
Photographs: KR64-GWK#1: 35-36; PlusX-GWK#1: 5; PlusX-GWK#2: 1
Status: Potential National Register Site

The Gold Crater mine site is northwest of Pahute Mesa in an area of low, rolling hills and washes. Mount Helen rises on the southeast, Stonewall Mountain on the northwest. The site is in a small wash surrounded by hills on all but the east side. The northeast-southwest-sloping terrain is covered with sagebrush and Joshua trees.

During the spring and summer of 1904, gold was discovered at Gold Crater, Wellington, Wilson, Sulphide, and Trappman's Camp, all in the southern extension of the Cactus Range. At Gold Crater (the most promising site) an official town site was laid out, and 200 lots were sold in three days. A 150-foot mine shaft was sunk, and plans were made to lay a pipeline south-eastward from Stonewall Mountain, to provide the camp with water. However, interest in the mine dwindled during the winter months, and by 1905 the only mining carried out was that of the lessors. Activity revived in the area with new discoveries in 1908, when the Jamestown camp was established, and again briefly in 1930.

At the mine site are a 42-foot-high headframe on 4" x 12" and 4" x 6" diagonal and vertical supports; the tailing piles; and mining equipment and debris.



Southwest of the mine is an L-shaped wood-frame structure built into the north face of a low hill. Each leg of the L is about 30 feet long. The building rests on a mud-sill foundation. Angular unmortared rock is piled along the exterior walls for support. The exterior siding is of 1" x 12" vertical shiplap and corrugated metal except for an addition on the southwest end of the east leg of the L, which is sheathed with rolled asphalt roofing material. The structure's wooden roof is supported on 2" x 4" and 2" x 6" joists and rafters and is sheathed with corrugated metal and flattened metal cans. Flooring of 1" x 8" tongue-and-groove hardwood is covered with linoleum. The ceilings are lined with wallboard, some of which has collapsed. There is 60% fenestration in the east elevation of the east leg and 10% in its west elevation. The interior contains a dresser and is littered with household debris. A 4-inch pipe extends from the roof of the east leg to a height of 5-1/2 feet. There is a wooden work table at the rear of the building; blocks of wood, piles of timber, cables, iron bars, and other metal debris are scattered about. Just west of the building is a 1926 or 1927 Model A car body. The structure is in good condition except for the roof of the addition, which has collapsed on its northwest end, having lost its supports.

Downhill, to the northwest, there is evidence that other structures were once standing. Wood flooring, wood siding, and other debris lie near the sites of these structures and also near a road through the site. A 6" x 8" metal pipe made of rolled steel, wrapped and riveted at the seams, runs beside the road. This pipe appears to have been used to transport water. North of the road are several small dump chutes. Barrels, tanks, and large timbers tied together with steel cables lie at the foot of the mine. East of its headframe, a 10-foot-square wooden platform with 2" x 6" and 2" x 8" flooring rests on a mud-sill foundation.